

# The Beholder

## NOTRE DAME SEMINARY PROGRAMS FOR LAITY

### ADVENT 2021

#### REFLECTION //

*Reflection and Art by Rachel Moore, ILEM student*

December 8, 2021 punctuates what Pope Francis has declared The Year of Saint Joseph. Many of us spent this year seeing what it means to “Ite ad Joseph”—to go to Joseph. Now as we enter into Advent, St. Joseph shows us what it means to go to Jesus. I pondered this image when drawing St. Joseph the Worker carrying the infant Christ. I imagined Joseph, exhausted from a long day of work as a carpenter, dropping his rugged tools to reach for his sweetly sleeping son. Against the calluses of Joseph’s work-worn hands, Christ is soft and soothing. Really, it’s an adorable moment, and maybe this says something about how Christ is calling us to adore Him as we begin this new year in the Church. We must take a moment to drop what attaches us to the work week and rest with our

sweet Savior. When there’s a baby around, wonder takes over. You gaze in awe at the baby. The baby gazes in awe back at you. This is the gaze God desires to share with us as He enters into our world. This Advent, let us seek rest in Him as we pray, “Oh, come let us adore Him!”



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Eucharist Lecture Series: "The Eucharist and the Future of the Church," by Archbishop Alfred Hughes: *Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 5:30 pm in Schulte Auditorium*
- Ministry Formation Workshop: "Sexual Integrity Ministry: Best Practices for Ministry Leaders," presented by Chris O'Neil and Gary LeBlanc: *Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 6:30 PM at the Northshore Pastoral Center*
- ILEM Retreat: *Friday, January 21 - Sunday, January 23, 2022*
- Open House: *Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Notre Dame Seminary*
- Ministry Formation Workshop: "Cultivating Virtuous Leadership in Ministry," by Dr. Susie Veters and Dr. Tom Neal: *Saturday, February 5, 2022, from 8:00-11:00 AM in Schulte Auditorium at Notre Dame Seminary*

JOIN US FOR THE NOTRE DAME SEMINARY  
PROGRAMS FOR LAITY

# OPENHOUSE

Wednesday, February 2, 2022  
6:30-7:30 PM

*Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry  
Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership  
Master of Arts in Theological Studies*

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*Please RSVP by Monday, January 31, by scanning the  
QR code!*

*\*virtual option for those who cannot attend in person\**



# Thank you!

Thank you to all of our benefactors who donated to Notre Dame Seminary during #iGiveCatholic 2021. Your contributions helped raise over \$11,000 that will support the intellectual programs at Notre Dame Seminary, providing scholarship opportunities for our students.



#iGIVECATHOLIC

# SMALL STEPS OF HOPE ARE POWERFUL

*Written by Lee Shaffer, ILEM Student, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux*



In Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Spe Salvi* (On Christian Hope), he relates that there is a need for a true hope in God for each of us individually, but he adds that “. . . we need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else” (#31). Over the past few months the people of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and other areas of South Louisiana impacted by Hurricane Ida have seen how those

lesser (smaller) hopes are keeping us moving forward together. Within a few days of the storm's impact, a group of us started to volunteer and work at Catholic Charities of Houma-Thibodaux, and we were able to get food, water, shelter, tarps, generators, and gas to those in desperate need. None of this would have been possible without the generous support from people and organizations around the world and, of course, the blessings from our Lord. It was these small items of hope that made it possible for many of us to take the next step in recovery. The numbers are not complete yet, but certainly thousands of people and families have lost their homes in the Bayou Region and many will never live there again. There have been many schools, businesses, and homes that will never recover, but we must continue to offer these bits of hope to those in need. The family living out of their car who is so very thankful for a hot hamburger, fries, and cookies; the 89 year old widower who did not have to pay \$3,000 to have her yard cleared; or the lady who had a hand from a volunteer to help go through her lifelong belongings to collect the items she could

salvage before her homes was abandoned. As Pope Benedict XVI relates in his encyclical, we want the governmental systems to work perfectly and we desire so much that these government systems could be the hope for us all, but we can't rely on governmental intervention. We must rely on those 'lesser hopes' brought from one human to another on behalf of our Lord. We continue to develop the Catholic Charities systems to reach out to the most in need through a variety of ways in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, but we are also trying to continue to deliver small bits of hope. If you are interested, we try to leave with mucking and cleaning volunteer crews from the Pastoral Center each weekend at 9:00 AM and travel to one of the Bayous to help someone in need each week. Please make sure if you, or a group, decide to come to let us know via my email at [lshaffer@htdiocese.org](mailto:lshaffer@htdiocese.org) since plans do change. If you have other ways you want to help, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are grateful for any and all help... and hope.



*Ms. Arlette Robichaux of Montegut had been praying that she would not need to use her small savings to clean up the live oak branches in her yard. When the volunteers showed up she found the hope she had been praying for in volunteers who offer their day to help.*



Are you an ordained or lay minister in the Archdiocese of New Orleans looking to improve your ability to serve the lay faithful in your parish or school? Join Notre Dame Seminary and the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Education and Faith Formation for a

# Spring Ministry Workshop Series

These mini-workshops are FREE and designed to equip ministers with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to face current issues in ministry.



## **Sexual Integrity Ministry:**

### **Best Practices for Ministry Leaders**

Presented by: Chris O'Neill and Gary LeBlanc

*Wednesday, January 12, 2022*

*The Northshore Pastoral Center*

*from 6:30- 8:00 PM*



## **Cultivating Virtuous Leadership in Ministry**

Presented by: Dr. Susie Veters and Dr. Tom Neal

*Saturday, February 5, 2022*

*Notre Dame Seminary, Schulte Auditorium*

*from 8:00 - 11:00 AM*



## **Partnering with Parents in Faith Formation**

Presented by: Dcn. Michael Whitehouse and Christina Uhlich

*Wednesday, April 6, 2022*

*St. Dominic Catholic Church*

*from 6:30 - 8:00 PM*



**You can register at [www.nds.edu/springministryworkshops](http://www.nds.edu/springministryworkshops).**

**For more information, please contact [layprograms@nds.edu](mailto:layprograms@nds.edu) or**

**504- 866-7426 ext. 742.**

*May Christ fill your hearts and homes with love this season.*



# Fall Adoration Night

On Wednesday, November 10th, a few of our lay students and seminarians gathered together for a night of adoration and fellowship. Den. Jeff Merritt of the Archdiocese of New Orleans led Adoration and Benediction, while Kimberly Mouledoux, ILEM student and Director of Music Ministry at St. Angela Merici Parish in Metairie, led the group in praise and worship. After adoration, everyone gathered for some time of fellowship.



Merry Christmas  
from the Programs for Laity Office!

# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS?



We are accepting applications now for our new Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry cohort! If you are a catechist, volunteer, or are just wanting to dive deeper into our Catholic faith and serve the Church, email [layprograms@nds.edu](mailto:layprograms@nds.edu) or call (504) 866-7426 for more information!